State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
**PRIMARY RECORD**

**Primary #**
**HRI #**
**Trinomial**
**NRHP Status Code**
Other Listings
Review Code Reviewer Date

**Page 1 of 11** ***Resource Name or #:** Division of Conservation Division of Oil and Gas Coalinga Office
**P1. Other Identifier:**
***P2. Location:** ☐ **Not for Publication** ☒ **Unrestricted**
***a. County:** Fresno **and** (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Mount Diablo **Date** __ T 20 S, R 15 E; **B.M.**
c. Address City Coalinga Zip 93301
d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone mE/ mN;
e. Other Locational Data: (e.g. parcel#, directions to resource, elevation, etc.)
latitude (n) of 36° 08' 30.58" and longitude (w) of 120° 21' 49.20"

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

The DOC Coalinga office consists of a single parcel at 466 North Fifth Street (also called Coalinga Plaza). The 0.17-acre parcel is located mid-block, adjacent to another parcel at the corner of North Fifth Street and East Birch occupied by the Palm Memorial Coalinga Chapel, which continues around the back of the State-owned property. The DOC parcel contains the office building that is the subject of this study, as well as an ancillary freestanding garage. Behind the garage on a separate parcel is a small corrugated steel side-gabled "test lab," which appears to have been moved from the northwest side of the parcel, where there is a remnant of a concrete foundation.

(continued on page 5)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (List attributes and codes) HP14. Government building
***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)
P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession#)
Oblique view toward the north of southwest and southeast facades
Photo taken on December 4, 2015.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:**
☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both
1918

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Department of Conservation
State of California

***P8. Recorded by:** (Name, affiliation, and address)
Marilyn Novell and Shannon Davis
ASM Affiliates, Inc.
20 North Raymond Avenue, Suite 220
Pasadena, CA 91103

***P9. Date Recorded:** December 4, 2015

***P10. Survey Type:** (Describe) Intensive-level Building Evaluation

***P11. Report Citation:** (cite survey report and sources, or enter "none.") Historic Resources Evaluation Report for the Department of Conservation Division of Oil and Gas Office, Coalinga, Fresno County, California. Prepared by ASM Affiliates, February 2016.

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☒ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

**Primary #** _____
**HRI #** _____



***NRHP Status Code** _____

***Resource Name or #** (Assigned by recorder) Division of Conservation Division of Oil and Gas Coalinga Office

B1. Historic Name: State Mining Bureau; Division of Oil and Gas
B2. Common Name:
B3. Original Use: Field office
B4. Present Use: Field office
***B5. Architectural Style:** Bungalow
***B6. Construction History:** **(Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)** Constructed in 1918; altered in 1985 and later

***B7. Moved?** ☒ **No** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **Unknown** **Date:** N/A **Original Location:** N/A
***B8. Related Features:** Ancillary garage
B9a. Architect: State of California; architect unknown b. Builder: Unknown
***B10. Significance: Theme** Twentieth-century oil and gas development **Area:** Fresno County
**Period of Significance:** 1918-1985 **Property Type:** Office building **Applicable Criteria:** N/A

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The eligibility for individual listing of the DOC Coalinga office property as an historic resource was carefully considered under NRHP criteria A, B, C, and D and the corresponding CRHR criteria 1,2,3 and 4.

Petra and ASM carefully considered the DOC Coalinga office building as a potential individual historic resource under Criterion A/1 for association with the broad patterns of our history. As one of the first regional offices for the new California State Mining Bureau, supporting one of the most important oil regions in the state, the building has the potential to be eligible for its association with the influential oil and gas industry in California, as well as for its association with the importance of the oil industry to the early development of Coalinga. However, due to significant loss of integrity, the building is not able to adequately convey that association. The office building has undergone repeated modifications, including replacement of all windows, replacement of exterior cladding, an addition to the northwest of the original building, an addition to the northeast of the building, and numerous interior alterations. As a result, the building only retains integrity of setting, location, and association, and as such lacks overall integrity to any potential period of significance under Criterion A/1. Therefore, the DOC Coalinga office is not eligible as an individual historical resource under Criterion A/1.

Petra and ASM carefully considered the DOC Coalinga office as a potential individual historic resource under Criterion B/2 for its association with the lives of important persons. This study found no evidence that this is the case. Therefore, the DOC Coalinga office is not eligible as an individual historical resource under Criterion B/2.

(continued on page 9)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) None

***B12. References:** See report

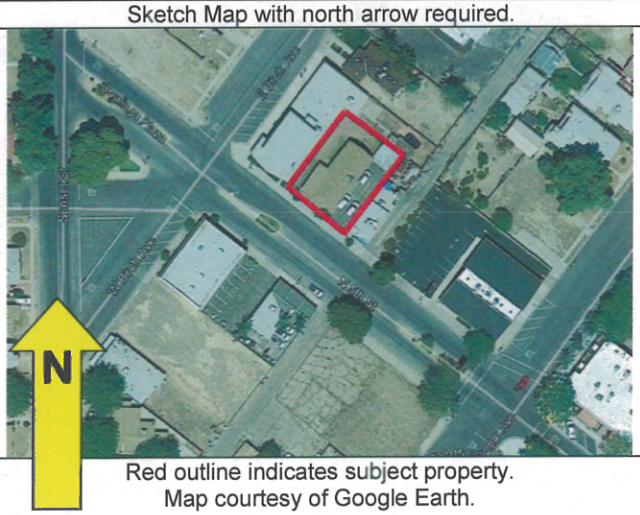
B13. Remarks: None

***B14. Evaluator:** Marilyn Novell and Shannon Davis
ASM Affiliates, Inc.

***Date of Evaluation:** December 4, 2015

(This space is reserved for official comments)

Sketch Map with north arrow required.




Red outline indicates subject property.
Map courtesy of Google Earth.



*Required Information

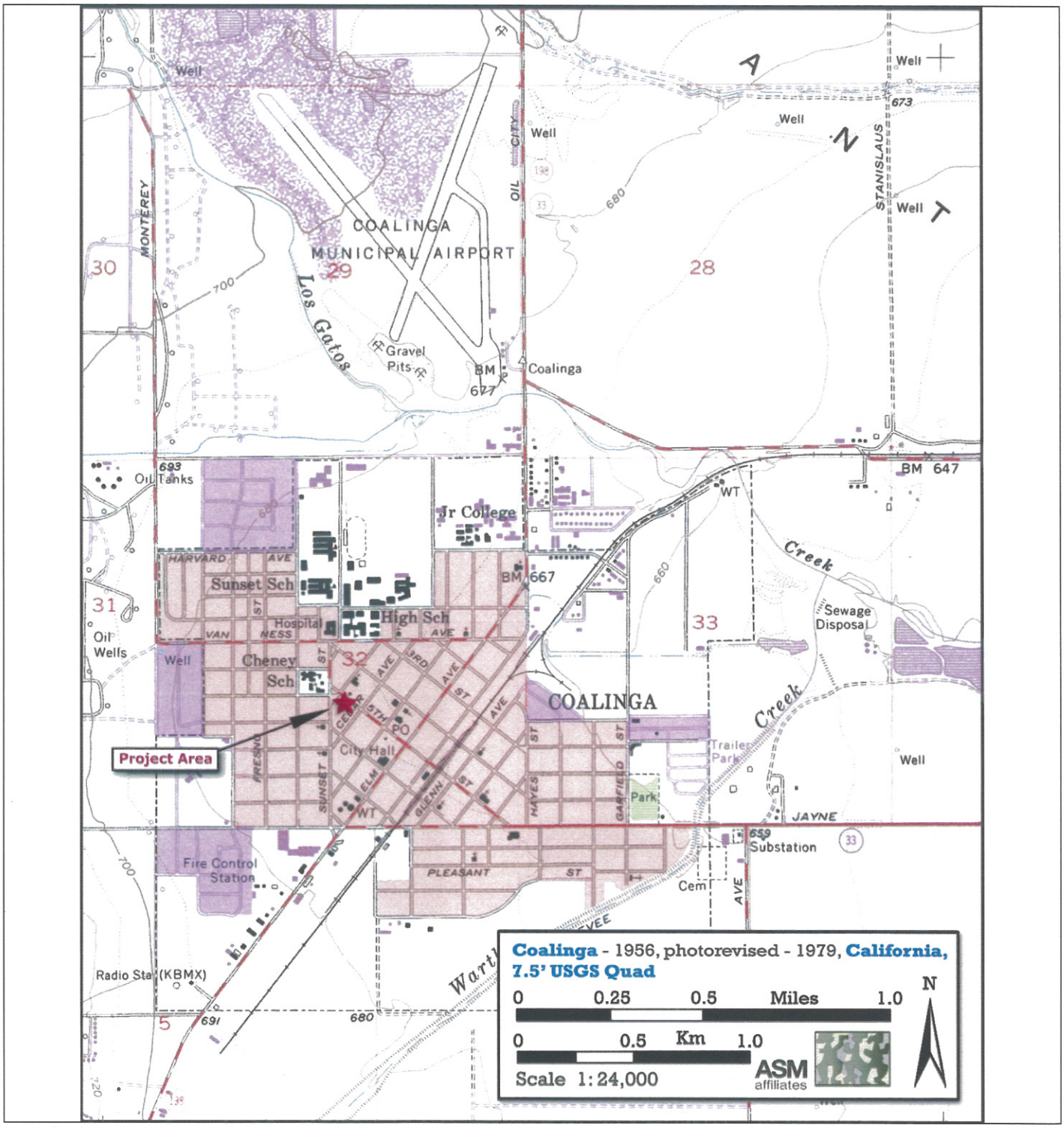
State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
**LOCATION MAP**

**Primary #** _____
**HRI #** _____
**Trinomial** _____



***Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder)** Division of Conservation Division of Oil and Gas Coalinga Office

***Map Name:** Mount Diablo ***Scale:** 1:24,000 ***Date of Map:** 1979






*Required Information

**Image 1.** Oblique view toward the south of the northeast and southwest facades. Source: ASM. December 4, 2015.

**Image 2.** View toward the northeast of the southwest facade. Source: ASM. December 4, 2015.


**Image 3.** Oblique view toward north of the southeast and northeast facades before remodel. Source: DOC office, circa 1985.

**Image 4.** View toward the southeast of the northwest façade of the test lab (on separate parcel). Source: DOC office. December 11, 2015.

**P3a. Description** (continued from page 1)

The office is a bungalow-style single-story building sitting on a cripple-wall foundation. It is rectangular in form with a wing at the northwest façade. The moderately pitched composite-shingle roof is hipped at the front with a vent at the top facing the primary façade. The back of the building has a gabled roof, and the addition has a shed roof. Eaves have exposed wood rafters. A two-part concrete ADA ramp with tubular steel railing is located at the primary façade, along with a cast-concrete porch and steps. An extension of the roof supported by square wood posts shelters the porch. Cladding is composed of rough wood paneling with vertical scoring to resemble individual boards. Fenestration consists of single-hung sash windows, both single and in groups of two, with plain wood surrounds. The northwest wing has a group of high horizontal sliding windows, also with a plain wood surround. Doors, all flat with single lights, consist of the primary entrance at the southwest façade and secondary entrances at the northeast and southeast façades.

The interior of the office building has an irregular floor plan. The primary entrance opens into an open space for clerical work and file cabinets. Near the center of the space is a board-form concrete vault with a steel door coated in shiny black enamel paint with gold detail. The manufacturer's name is painted in white letters and reads "Herring Hall Marvin Safe Co. / San Francisco." The vault has a lever-type handle and a combination lock. Above the door is a brass plaque with black lettering reading "Division of Oil & Gas." At the top of the door is a sign that appears to have been painted over reading "State Mining Bureau." Offices, a conference room, and other rooms open off a double-loaded central corridor. At the back of the building are a full-width field/drafting room and a storage room. Walls and ceilings are a variety of plaster or wallboard and wood beadboard wainscoting and narrow crown molding.

An unattached ancillary garage is located at the northeast side of the parcel. It is constructed of corrugated steel walls and front-gabled roof on a redwood frame on a poured-concrete foundation. Slightly overhanging eaves have exposed rafter beams. The entrance is framed in flat wood board with no door.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**Oil and Gas in California**

The beginnings of the State Mining Bureau are founded in the California Gold Rush, which prompted the appointment of the first honorary State Geologist in 1851, just one year after California attained statehood. A growing need for information about the mining industry sponsored the establishment of the State Mining Bureau on April 16, 1880, with Henry G. Hanks appointed as the first State Mineralogist. The earliest mission of the Bureau was to "to encourage the development of the great mineral resources of California." In 1899, the Bureau's headquarters was established in San Francisco, where the major mining efforts had first begun in California nearly 50 years prior (Department of Conservation 2015). Meanwhile, efforts toward drilling oil wells increased during the 1870s and 1880s in the Santa Cruz Mountains outside San Francisco, near Santa Paula, the Puente Hills in Los Angeles County, the Coalinga Field (1887), and the San Joaquin Valley. In the 1890s, the oil industry began to push ahead, attracting great interest from investors and developments. The most productive field in California at that time was the Los Angeles City field, followed closely by the Kern River field (Rintoul 1990:6, 10-12).

In 1903, California became the top producing oil state in the United States, with a majority of that volume coming from the Kern River field. With the growth in the industry, construction of major pipelines began. Unfortunately, because many oil sands lacked permeable rock, water was often interbedded with oil sands, a difficulty that plagued oil wells throughout California (Rintoul 1990:12-13, 17). Typically, "the damage done to oil fields by water arises from the fact that when water is admitted to a sand stratum, saturated with oil, it tends to displace the oil. If the entrance of water is at or near an oil well, it frequently drives the oil away from the well, which then produces only water. This process also continues along the strata and affects neighboring wells in a like manner. The entrance of the water into an oil bearing sand is due to two primary causes: first, incomplete knowledge of geological conditions surrounding a well, and second, faulty mechanical conditions in drilling or maintaining the well" (McLaughlin 1917:6-7). Most often, drillers did not understand the geology of their site, and with wells often drilled too closely spaced to maximize yield, this condition became a significant problem that threatened the economic viability of the state (Rintoul 1990:17, 19). Generally, oil field development had been haphazard and inefficient, and the state recognized oil as a collective natural resource whereby poorly developed wells affected neighboring wells (McLaughlin 1917:7). Management of the larger oil fields, in addition to individual wells, became necessary.

**P3a. Description** (continued)

Legislation enacted in March 1903 was the first attempt to address the problem by requiring proper use of water near well sites and abandonment of wells. However, there was no authorizing agency to oversee the legislation. A 1909 law required proper well casement and abandonment, with a county commissioner tracking the required actions with a log, filing and investigating complaints, and making declarations of public nuisances for unkempt wells. A 1911 law recognized the need to preserve wasting of the natural gas during the drilling process and threatened penalties (including imprisonment) for wrong-doing (Rintoul 1990:19-20). In the Coalinga District, the County Oil Well Commissioner, M. J. Kirwan, primarily kept well logs, studied issues, and offered recommendations to address problems (McLaughlin 1914:122). Despite these efforts, problems with contaminated water remained unresolved, prompting the foundation of two local field advisory bodies, the Kern County Oil Protective Association in Taft (1912) and the Coalinga Water Arbitration Association (1914). Efforts made in Taft and Coalinga provided good examples of how to address those water problems but highlighted the inefficiency of field-by-field actions and the need for a statewide organization (Rintoul 1990:21).

By 1915, the investment in the oil industry (pipelines, refineries, and equipment in the field) had already grown to $250,000,000, and increased efficiency in production for World War I prompted stronger legislation (McLaughlin 1917:5-6). At that time, the State Mining Bureau focused on providing information about mineral extraction and did not regulate the oil industry. The Bureau's Mineralogist supported a statewide survey of the operations conducted by Roy Parmelee McLaughlin, the State Oil and Gas Supervisor, who in turn gathered information, made recommendations, and ultimately gained the support of the associations around the counties and some oil producers. The collective efforts culminated in a bill "to protect oil lands menaced by water," which was introduced February 6, 1915, and passed unanimously. The resultant agency, the Department of Petroleum and Gas of the State Mining Bureau, was established August 9, 1915 (Chapter 718, Statutes of 1915) (Rintoul 1990:21-24). The Department of Petroleum and Gas (later the Division of Oil and Gas) and the office of Oil and Gas Supervisor were created, reporting to the State Mineralogist of the State Mining Bureau (Department of Conservation 2015). The department was charged with supervising drilling, operations, maintenance, and abandonment of petroleum and gas wells in an effort to prevent damage to the deposits from water or other causes. New wells had to be registered with the department, as did abandoned wells, with precise locations and specified protocols for proper well drilling, maintenance, and abandonment, all in an effort to safeguard the natural resources that were critical to most industries in the state (McLaughlin 1917:5; Rintoul 1990:24-25). Throughout the decades, the department would remain focused on its founding principles to eliminate inefficiencies in underground operations, which were founded on the understanding that "all wells drilled have an intimate relation to all others in the immediate vicinity and no field operations can be properly conducted unless they are in harmony with a general plan based on careful and widespread study. Such studies can only be conducted by some governmental institution authorized to collect the necessary facts from all parties and enforce recommendations," as appropriate (McLaughlin 1917:7, 1918b:8-9). The department continued to advocate for professional engineers and geologists, who understood the underground terrain, which was essential for the development of better drilling and maintenance practices (Rintoul 1990:33).

Deputies of the newly established department were located in Coalinga, Taft, Los Angeles, and Santa Maria, and the department head worked at the State Mining Bureau headquarters in San Francisco (Rintoul 1990:25, 27). The Fresno County Oil Well Commissioner, M. J. Kirwan, became the highest ranking deputy in the department and worked in the Fresno County office in Coalinga (McLaughlin 1918a:323). Increased oil consumption prompted by World War I and an increasingly mobile population due to the automobile era of the 1920s sponsored the development of more oil fields and a higher workload for the department. This resulted in an additional district in Bakersfield and the redistribution of the work load with District 1 in Los Angeles (served Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, San Diego Imperial, and San Bernardino counties), District 2 in Santa Paula/Ventura (served Ventura County), District 3 in Santa Maria (served Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Alameda and San Francisco), District 4 in Bakersfield (served Tulare, Inyo, and Kern counties), and District 5 in Coalinga (served Fresno, Madera, Kings, Mono, Mariposa, Merced, and all other counties) (McLaughlin 1917:7; Rintoul 1990:41-43). By 1923, California had become the top oil-producing state, but a significant amount of natural gas continued to be wasted during development. The department still contended with its producers on how to best develop wells as the office continued to manage the oil fields as a collective resource (Rintoul 1990:47, 49).

The Great Depression significantly impacted the industry with fewer new well notices. Yet operations did not cease, and the department continued to reform practices in an effort to strengthen the industry, including filing suits with companies that wasted natural gas (Rintoul 1990:55,60,63). By 1938, the industry showed signs of recovery, including more natural gas and oil field discoveries using seismic prospecting. California had become the second-ranking oil producer in the nation behind Texas (Rintoul 1990:65, 67). \

**P3a. Description** (continued)

The impending entry into World War II prompted an increased focus on efficiency and greater production for the war efforts. Once the United States entered the war, the government assumed control over production. In an expanded post-war economy, the constrained market flourished, driven by a growing population with increased demands in building and buying, much of which relied heavily on oil production (Rintoul 1990:72-73, 81). Many investors focused on developing oil fields discovered in the 1930s (Rintoul 1990:88). The department retained the same functions, including the enforcement of laws such as the Spacing Act, which specified a maximum of one well per acre. In the midst of an intensive drilling campaign to bring more oil online in Placerita, the department's enforcement of the law was successfully challenged by an oil company. This opened the door for increased closely-spaced well drilling (Rintoul 1990:86-87). In 1955, activity in the Sacramento Valley prompted the following division of the department: District 5 served Fresno, Madera, Kings, Mono, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne counties; and District 6 served Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and all other counties. Both districts were headquartered at the Coalinga office until 1957, when District 6 moved to Woodland (Rintoul 1990:89, 166).

A majority of the largest producing oil fields in California were discovered between 1890 and 1920, and much of the production was crude oil. Beginning in the 1950s and 1960s, technological advances, primarily water-flooding and thermal recovery, reignited the industry (Rintoul 1990:110-111; Tennyson 2005:1). In the early 1960s, geothermal power had developed to the point where it also required supervision, prompting the state to authorize the Division's supervision of the development of geothermal resources on September 17, 1965 (Department of Conservation 2015; Rintoul 1990:128). In 1968, oil production in the state exceeded the previous record set in 1953, which was largely attributed to the use of steam in oil production (Rintoul 1990:119). In 1978, California moved down in rank from third to fourth among top oil-producing states in the country, with Kern County in District 4 producing nearly 60 percent of the crude oil for the state (Mefferd 1980:3). By 1990, the Division of Oil and Gas had six district oil and gas offices (Sacramento headquarters, Long Beach, Ventura, Santa Maria, Bakersfield, Coalinga, and Woodland) and three geothermal offices (Sacramento, El Centro, and Santa Rosa) (Rintoul 1990:viii). In 1992, it became the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources.

**Brief History of Coalinga**

Coalinga began as an unincorporated community in western Fresno County and is among the few mining boom towns in California that survived beyond mere camps to become permanent cities. Incorporated in 1910, the City of Coalinga owed its initial prosperity to the mining of coal and oil (National Register of Historic Places 1983).

In 1864, California sheep herder and mountaineer Frank Dusy and partner John Clark set out on a hunting expedition to the Coast Range west of Coalinga, where they happened to notice the seepage of oil near some springs and ledges in Vallecito Canyon (History of Fresno County 1882:190, 232). The two speculators, along with W. A. Porter, organized the San Joaquin Petroleum Company and filed a claim on 160 acres on December 16, 1864 (Smith 2004:697). By the following year, an oil rush was on that resembled the Gold Rush in terms of attracting thousands prospectors hoping to strike it rich and the concomitant construction of businesses to supply, house, and entertain them.

In Coalinga, early interest in oil quickly abated because of problems with shipping and the relatively low demand. In 1891, the Southern Pacific company purchased the 160-acre homestead of M. L. Curtis and laid out the town site, naming it Coalinga to indicate its function as Coaling Station A. The extension of the Southern Pacific rail line to Coalinga coincided with a growing interest worldwide in oil, as the coal mines failed to produce as expected (Howell n.d.). Although the Southern Pacific had extended its tracks as far as the coal mines northwest of Coalinga by 1888, the town remained largely undeveloped. In 1890, only about half a dozen buildings occupied the town site (National Register of Historic Places 1983).

The Coalinga field was among the earliest and most productive of the California oil fields during the boom of the late nineteenth century. As early as 1892, partners Edward L. Doheny and Charles A. Canfield drilled a "discovery" well in the Los Angeles area. The next year, Doheny had begun to explore the fields of Kern County, while Canfield invested and drilled wells near Coalinga. By the winter of 1899, Canfield's wells near Coalinga had become the foremost producer in California (Testa 2005:92).

In the early days of the Coalinga field, the oil was under pressure to the point that it burst from the ground in the form of "gushers." An impressive gusher in 1909 at the "Silver Tip" well in the Coalinga field was the biggest in California at the time, delivering an unprecedented 45,000 barrels within 72 hours (Smith 2004:703). The gusher was so impressive that the Los Angeles Stock Exchange shut down for a day to allow its members to take an excursion by train to view it. Because the oil strikes around Coalinga were among the first, the area was the first to develop tools and pumping methods to tap and control the flows (Marcussen 2015).

**P3a. Description** (continued)

Herman H. Brix was an important pioneer in oil development in Coalinga. He arrived in California from his native Germany in 1881 and established a homestead in Coalinga in 1888. After an unsuccessful attempt at grain farming in the Coalinga area, which suffered from lack of water and intense heat, Brix set out for the Alaskan Gold Rush. In the meantime, Coalinga underwent a revitalized oil boom, whereupon Brix returned to Coalinga, presumably to capitalize on that financial opportunity. An astute businessman, Brix formed a much-needed water company on his land and subsequently prospered in oil investments as well. By 1915, Brix and his partners owned 1,400 acres of oil lands in the Coalinga area. He was also associated with the Confidence Oil Company, whose #2 well opened up the Coalinga Westside Field in 1900. Brix contributed further to the early growth of the Coalinga area through his real estate investments, having bought and sold 103 properties between 1905 and 1910 (National Register of Historic Places 1983).

Oil field workers were often housed in company camps near the worksite rather than in town; thus, the population of Coalinga was sometimes evenly distributed between those living in town and workers in the field (Marcussen 2015). Corporations such as Standard Oil established camps to facilitate development of multiple wells simultaneously. Typically, these camps were occupied for five or more years, or until the well stopped producing, and housed up to 300 workers. The camps were in fact self-sustaining small towns with multiple permanent-style buildings, including bunkhouses for bachelors, cottages for married men or foremen, a cookhouse, and, after 1930, recreational facilities. Standard Oil kept livestock at the camps to provide fresh milk, eggs, butter, and meat to the workers (California Department of Transportation 2013:110).

In 1910, the year of Coalinga's incorporation as a city, the oil field was the largest in California. That year's local telephone directory offered a brief but detailed description of the growing area's amenities, emphasizing the importance of the oil industry:

> A prosperous town on the branch line of the Southern Pacific 64 miles southwest of Fresno. The principal industry is oil. Has two hotels, two banks, two lumber companies, seven oil well supply houses, three oil well supply foundries, two daily newspapers, telephone, telegraph and express service; mail three times daily; second town in point of shipping in State; population approximately 5500, with an additional approximate population of 5,000 in the adjacent oil fields. Has electric light and water system. Sustains three churches of various denominations. Production of oil fields adjacent to Coalinga approximately 1,400,000 barrels of oil every thirty days, which is taken care of through four pipe lines and by rail. Substantial brick buildings are rapidly taking the place of the old frame structures in the business section. Free delivery of mail is about to be installed [Polk-Husted Directory 1910:403].

As was common throughout the California fields, the geology of the Coalinga area was such that water and oil often co-mingled, rendering the water contaminated and therefore undrinkable. Although procuring water had always been a challenge for the community, the value of the oil fields drove interest in developing a means of tackling the problem. Drinking water was originally brought in on railroad tankers from artesian wells owned by the Southern Pacific in Armona, about 40 miles to the east. The resource was at such a premium that, until 1972, when water from the San Luis Canal under the state/federal water system became available through the Coalinga Peripheral Canal, every household in the town had three faucets in its kitchen: one for hot water, one for cold water, and a third for drinking water (Mitchell 2005:111); Coalinga thus was known as "the three-tap town." In 1960, experimental systems to improve available water supplies began to be developed; these included an ionic system, and later a reverse osmosis method, which eventually became common throughout the world as a means of converting seawater and other impotable water to a drinkable state (Howell n.d.).

On May 2, 1985, Coalinga was hit with an earthquake of magnitude 6.7, which leveled much of the central business district's unreinforced buildings, resulting in the red-tagging of as many as 1,000 houses, of which 300 were eventually demolished (Mitchell 2005:128). As a consequence, a large portion of the downtown has been built in the last 30 years. The 1918 DOC office was among those left standing, arguably as a result of the support provided by the central internal concrete vault (Boardman 2015). Despite the destruction, the earthquake served as a catalyst to rethink the city's economic future and to rebuild its center. In later years, the city actively sought and won a major state prison facility and an adjacent forensic hospital (Howell n.d.).

History of the Coalinga Division of Oil and Gas Office

Early in the twentieth century, the Coalinga oil industry was up for grabs, with independents battling against increasing control by large petroleum producers, in particular Standard Oil (later Chevron Oil). A 1905 *New York Times* article reported that the monopoly company was obstructing independent operators and holding prices artificially low in an attempt to drive out small competitors. The Southern Pacific Railroad was also implicated in the harassment. Calls for the government to step in were met, in part, by the establishment of the State Mining Bureau office at Coalinga in 1918 (New York Times 1905). In the first part of 1918, the newly established department constructed its first office buildings in Coalinga and Taft (McLaughlin 1918b:9). At the outset, the department

**P3a. Description** (continued)

developed systematic steps to developing oil land (McLaughlin 1918a:8). Models of the geological and mechanical conditions of the oil fields were prepared and displayed in the offices as part of the department's educational efforts, a tradition that continues today (McLaughlin 1918b:9). The mainstay of the offices' responsibilities was making recommendations for drilling, abandonment, and depth of water shut-off, and testing of water shut-off at the wells as well as investigation into areas with operational problems (McLaughlin 1918a:323).

The Coalinga property consisted of an office building designed and constructed by the State of California in 1918 for the State Mining Bureau. The 1917 architectural drawings indicate that they were prepared by the Department of Engineering. The plans show three offices, a hall, and a vault, as well as a large "model room" occupying the back of the building. A 1910 photograph of the area before the office was built shows a second-hand store at the approximate location of the current DOC office building and driveway. An undated photograph of the office including an automobile from the early twentieth century is likely one of the earliest. A Sanborn Fire Insurance map from 1910 indicates the presence of two dwellings in the approximate location of the DOC office, and the DOC office is shown on the site in the 1923 map (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1910, 1923).

Until about 1985, when the building underwent extensive renovation after the 1983 earthquake, the building appeared to be largely unmodified from the original architectural plans. Alterations included replacement of the clapboard siding, replacement of all windows and doors, and the addition of a wing at the northwest façade. According to the architectural drawings and apparently as built, the primary façade featured a symmetrical plan with two doors under a central porch flanked by a window on each side. The remodel resulted in replacement of one of the doors on the primary façade with a window and reconfiguration of the porch structure to include a wood Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp with wood railings. The model room was subdivided. At a later date, additional rooms were added at the back of the building the wood ADA ramp and porch were replaced with concrete, the heavy square rectangular porch supports were replaced with simple 8 x 8 wood beams, and the addition was enlarged.

**B10. Significance** (continued from page 2)

Petra and ASM carefully considered the DOC Coalinga office as a potential individual historic resource under Criterion C/3. The bungalow architectural style displayed by the office building was a common style of that era, and this office building is not an outstanding or rare example of the style. The building was designed by the State Department of Engineering, with no architect specified; thus, it is not associated with a master architect. It is not significant for possessing distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The office building does not display high artistic value, as required under these criteria. Moreover, the building lacks overall integrity, such that the property does not convey any potential architectural significance to its date of construction. Therefore, the DOC Coalinga office is not eligible as a historical resource under Criterion C/3.

Petra and ASM finds that the office building, as an individual historic resource, is a common property type that does not have the potential to provide information about history or prehistory that is not available through historic research. Therefore, the DOC Coalinga office building is not eligible as an individual historical resource under Criterion D/4.

The eligibility for the DOC Coalinga office as a CHL was carefully considered under the three California Historic Landmarks (CHL) criteria. However, the DOC Coalinga office is not the first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within Central California. It is not associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California. Nor is it a prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder. Therefore, the DOC Coalinga office building is not eligible as a CHL under all three criteria.

The DOC Coalinga office building is not listed in, nor determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the CHRR. Nor is the building included in a local register of historical resources, or identified as significant in an historical resource survey. Nor did the evaluation of this property conducted for this report find that the building is historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. As such, the DOC Coalinga office building is not considered a CEQA historical resource.

The DOC Coalinga office building is not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D nor the three CHL criteria, pursuant to PRC §5024. Furthermore, the DOC Coalinga office building is not eligible for the CRHR under Criteria 1, 2, 3, or 4, nor any other eligibility criteria pursuant to CEQA.

**B12. References**

Boardman, Timothy
2015 Personal interview of Deputy Supervisor DOC Coalinga office by Marilyn Novell, December 4, 2015.

California Department of Transportation
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., *Governor*

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April 5, 2016

Reply in Reference to: CAGEN_2016_0309_001

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Energy & Environmental Section
California Department of General Services
707 3rd St., 4th Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95605

RE: PRC 5024 and 5024.5 Consultation for Determination of Eligibility, Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas Office, 466 North Fifth St., Coalinga, Fresno County

Dear Ms. Parson:

We have received the California Department of General Services (DGS) March 8, 2016 letter initiating consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) 5024 and 5024.5 on behalf of the California Department of Conservation (DOC) with the eligibility evaluation of the subject property for the Master List of historic resources.

DOC is preparing the office building for a potential surplus sale.

DGS, on behalf of DOC, evaluated the building applying the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and the California Historic Landmarks (CHL) criteria determining that the Division of Conservation Division of Oil and Gas Coalinga office building is not eligible under the criteria of the NR or as a CHL because the building no longer has integrity.

OHP reviewed the documentation you provided and offers the following comments.

I concur that the 1918 built office state building at 466 North Fifth St., Coalinga, Fresno County no longer conveys integrity under the National Register criteria or as a CLG, and is not eligible for the Master List.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michelle C. Messinger, State Historian II of my staff at (916) 445-7005 or at Michelle.Messinger@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

# Draft Historic Resources Evaluation Report Department of Conservation Division of Oil and Gas Office Coalinga, California

March 2016


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Sarah Lozano

DUDEK

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